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MESSAGE.

No. 1.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

In compliance with the Resolution of the Legislative Council, the Governor lays before the Board a copy of such portions of Her Majesty's Instructions to him as refer to the Constitution of the Colony and the construction of the Legislative Council.

It was decided, in another Colony with which the Governor was connected, that the House of Assembly was not entitled as of right to be put in possession of the Royal Instructions. The Governor will not however throw any impediment in the way of the Council during the present difficult Session.

Government House,

2nd February, 1867.

ENCLOSURE IN THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE. No. 1, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Extract from the Royal Instructions.

Eleventh.—And whereas by an Order in Council, bearing date the 11th day of June, 1863, we did constitute a Legislative Council, and did empower the Governor of our said Colony with the advice of our said Council, to make Laws for the Peace, Order, and Good Government of our said Colony, and did declare that until otherwise provided by us, the said Council should, in the Transactions of Business and Passing of Laws conform as nearly as might be to the Directions conveyed in certain Instructions therein mentioned, and bearing date the second day of September, 1858, and to such further Instructions under our Sign Manual and Signet as might hereafter be addressed to the Governor of our said Colony in that behalf; and we did further declare that, subject to such Instructions, the said Council might make Standing Rules and Orders for the Regulation of their own Proceedings; and whereas by our Letters Patent of even date herewith, we have revoked our said Instructions of the second day of September, 1858, we do further Direct and Require you to frame and propose to the said Council for their adoption, such Standing Rules and Orders as may be necessary to ensure Fidelity of Attendance of the Members of the said Council, and to prevent Meetings of the said Council being holden without convenient Notice to the several Members thereof, and to maintain Order and Method in the dispatch of Business, and in the conduct of all Debates in the said Council, and to secure due deliberation in the passing of Laws, and to provide that, before the passing of any Law intended to affect the Interests of private persons, due notice of the same is given to all Persons concerned therein, all which Rules and Orders, not being repugnant to the said Order in Council, or to your said Commission, or to these our Instructions, or to any other Instructions which you may receive from us, shall at all times be followed and observed, and shall be binding upon the said Council, unless the same, or any of them shall be disallowed by us.

Twelfth.—And we do further Direct that all Laws to be enacted by you with the Advice and Consent of the said Council, shall henceforth be styled "Ordinances enacted by the Governor of "British Columbia, with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative Council thereof;" and that no other style or Form shall ever henceforth be observed in any such enactments.

Thirteenth.—And we do further Direct that all Ordinances made by you with the Advice of the said Council be Distinguished by Titles, and that the Ordinances of each year be also Distinguished by Numerical Marks, commencing in each successive year with the number One, and proceeding in arithmetical progression to the number corresponding with the total number of Ordinances enacted during the year; and that every such Ordinance be divided into successive Chapters, and numbered in the following manner, to wit:—The first Chapter shall be numbered One, the second Two, the third Three, and so on, until the last Chapter of the Ordinance shall be numbered with the number of Chapters of which the Ordinance shall consist.

Fourteenth.—And we do further Direct that all such Ordinances be drawn up in a simple and Compendious Form, and that subjects which have no proper relation to each other be not comprised in one and the same Ordinance. And that no Enactments be introduced into any such Ordinance which may be Foreign to its professed scope and object, and that no Perpetual Clause be part of any Temporary Ordinance.

Fifteenth.—And we do further Direct that you do not propose or assent to any Ordinance whatever in relation to any of the matters mentioned or referred to in the said Order in Council, or in your said Commission, or in these our Instructions, which shall be in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with such Order in Council, or Commission, or Instructions.